

**Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations
Criterion-Referenced Test**

Released Item Book

Reading

Grade

7



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Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations—Criterion-Referenced Test
(WKCE-CRT)

Released Item Book

What are released items?

The items in this book are actual items from the fall 2005 state assessment, the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations—Criterion-Referenced Test (WKCE-CRT). These items will not be used again on the state assessment and may, therefore, be used in Wisconsin for professional development, improving instruction, and student practice. The items in this book illustrate the formats and kinds of items that students will encounter on the WKCE-CRT.

How do I use this book?

Professional Development

Released items are useful as educators engage in conversations about what students are expected to know and be able to do to demonstrate proficiency on the state assessments relative to the state model academic standards. Released items can inform discussions about state and local standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Improving Instruction

Teachers may use released items in classroom activities that help students understand how to:

- solve problems
- determine which answer choices are correct, which are incorrect, and why
- respond to constructed response items with complete, thoughtful answers
- approach long and/or multi-step tasks
- use good test-taking strategies.

Student Practice

Students may perform better and with less anxiety if they are familiar with the format of the test and with the types of items they will be required to answer. See the accompanying guide for instructions on administering the released item book as a practice test and for the answer key. Note that a student's score on the practice test cannot be converted to a scale score, used to predict performance on the operational WKCE-CRT, or used to make inferences about the student's learning.

Directions

Read the passage “Raggedy Pants and the Dinosaur Wall.” Then answer Numbers 1 through 10.

Raggedy Pants and the Dinosaur Wall

by Eleanora E. Tate



It's Libby Burns's fault that I'm dangling upside down on this Dinosaur Climbing Wall at our Jellyfish Festival. I'm dizzier than a seagull on a weathervane during a nor'easter.¹ Every single drop of blood has drained to my head and is sloshing around in my brain. Feels like my tummy's trying to push . . . up? down? How did I get here?

When I get my eyes halfway steadied, I notice that Miz Pennyfeather, our librarian, is down below shaking her head at me. So are my folks, my older sister Raisin, my little sister Hattie, and some other kids. Hattie has her mouth open so wide that I can see her back teeth. That's because she's shouting, “Maizell, you look like a bat! Libby's getting ahead of you! Come on, straighten up and climb right!”

Easy for her to say, safe and upright on the ground. With my beaded braids banging me in the eyeballs, I struggle around in my climbing harness, find another handhold, and finally get turned right-side up. Of course, then all the blood shoots down to my feet. My brain deflates so fast I have to lean my head against the wall. Everything's going jibbity jibbity jibbity.

I think I'm going to throw up, too, right on Miz Pennyfeather's hat. Then she'd never let me be a library helper for sure!

¹**nor'easter:** a storm that comes from the northeast

With one hand I hitch up my shorts and cautiously check to make sure they haven't ripped out the back. I bought them at the Henny Penny Store, where you can get great bargains. The stuff usually won't tear up or break apart, at least not right away. Hattie says I'm cheap, but Momma calls me frugal. I like that word.

Libby Burns is above me on the wall in her yellow shorts, too. When she saw me in my pretty yellow shorts last week, she went out and bought the exact same kind from somewhere in the mall. But hers cost \$30, she made sure to tell me. Her family's got money, which is okay, but she brags about it so much that she makes me and everybody else sick, sick, sick! She also loves to try to talk psychological in that way that intimidates and rules over folks. Torn shorts and "Miss It" Libby Burns are what got me into this predicament² in the first place.

It all started last month, when I went to her birthday party. Everyone was there. Her older brother jumped out at me in his shiny green skin-diving suit, goggles, and flippers, looking like the creature from the swamp. He scared me so bad I split the behind out of my jeans getting away.

Libby's called me Raggedy Pants ever since. She makes me madder than a cat with its tail caught in the gate. And finally, last week, I decided I'd had enough. We were on the blacktop after lunch, and she started in on me. And all these kids were laughing. I wanted to cry or run away. But I made myself stand glued to the floor. Finally I got the nerve to say, "Why don't you button your lip."

That got Libby, because her eyes sort of bugged out.

"I got a right to speak my mind," she said, like I was a mosquito she could squash with her words. And to tell you the truth, that's how I felt.

And then she started singing, "Raggedy Pants, Raggedy Pants, so scaredy cat you split your pants." And everyone started laughing again. So what was my choice? I could run away or show Libby Burns that I wasn't some bug she could stomp on. Actually, running seemed like a good idea. But I stayed right there, my sneakers glued to the cafeteria floor. I thought of my big sister Raisin, who never runs away from anything.

²**predicament:** difficult situation

“If I’m such a scaredy cat, how come I climbed the Big Rock just last week?” I asked. I made myself stare right at her bugged-out eyes. Big Rock is a climbing wall at the community center. I’d climbed up twice, in fact. I don’t think Libby made it even once.

Libby stared at me, and that’s when I unglued my sneakers and stomped away, my braids swinging just perfectly. I thought that was the end of it. And it was.

Until this morning, when my whole family came to the tenth annual South Carolina Jellyfish Festival, right here in Gumbo Grove, South Carolina, where we all live at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. Everyone in town showed up, including Libby Burns. Raisin and I were standing at the Ferris wheel when Miss It strutted up and said, “Hey, scaredy cat, meet me at the Dinosaur Wall at 2:00. We’ll see who’s scared!”

I think the Dinosaur Wall must be the biggest climbing wall in the world. It was brought in from Durham, North Carolina, especially for our Jellyfish Festival.

“Don’t do it, Maizell,” Raisin said. “You have nothing to prove to Libby Burns.”

But for once I knew Raisin was wrong. I’d have to try to climb the wall, no matter how scared I was. Otherwise, Libby would tell everybody I really was a Raggedy Pants and a scaredy cat. And she’d be right.

So that’s how I got here, stuck up against this gigantic Dinosaur Wall with everybody looking up at me and laughing. This wall looks taller than the hotels on our oceanfront. I make myself look down quick. Raisin waves at me. She’s not afraid of anything. I wish I could be like her, instead of “ole” scaredy cat Maizell me, right now.

Above me, Libby’s behind now looks like one of those big sales balloons you see flying over a car lot. And that makes me laugh. When I laugh, then I don’t feel so scared. Gathering up my courage, I follow Libby’s lead, and the next thing I know, I’m going up that wall again, too.

As folks start screaming, “Go Maizell! Go Maizell!” I pull even with Libby at the top of the Dinosaur Wall. I refuse to look down anymore because I know by now that the ground is a million miles below.

Instead I look over at Libby. She's light-skinned but right now her face is red. She's puffing and sweating. Strands of her long black hair are stuck to her cheeks. When she glances at me, I get ready to hear her call me names. I try to think of something smart to say back. But what she says is, "I think I'm gonna throw up."

"Don't look down," I say back, to my surprise. "Take deep breaths. Let the rope slide you down."

But she says she's too scared, that she can't. The man on the ground with her guide rope is just standing there waiting. Now my man's waiting, too. So instead of my sliding down the wall and leaving her up there like I should, I stay with her. I'm saying, "Take it easy, watch your feet, you'll make it okay," and so on. Am I crazy encouraging her? I guess I'm feeling that maybe she'll think I'm a heroine, helping her like this. I'm thinking maybe she'll stop calling me names now. Maybe it's not her fault that she's so mean.

Just when we're both maybe fifteen feet from the bottom, she looks over at me again. "Raggedy Pants!" she screams and starts sliding down past me fast.

Was she faking all along? After me trying to be nice! I should have known not to feel sorry for her. So you know what? I yell right back, "Maybe so, but now YOUR pants are ripped up the back!"

She freezes with her mouth in an "o" shape. While she's reaching with one hand to feel her shorts, I slide right on down to the ground and win. Hattie and Raisin rush up and hug me.

Libby slides down, too. She gets out of that harness with her back to everybody and FLIES toward the nearest restroom building.

I want to laugh at her, she looks so crazy. But I realize I don't want to act mean the way Libby always does. I run after her.

"I was just kidding!" I holler.

Libby skids to a stop and glares at me.

But then she sits down on a nearby rock and gives me a half smile.

"Well," she says, "I guess I deserved it."

All of a sudden Libby Burns doesn't look so mean. We both know our race is over. Nobody won.

But nobody lost, either.



1 Why is Maizell angry at Libby?

- Ⓐ Libby calls her a name.
- Ⓑ Libby's family is wealthy.
- Ⓒ Libby's brother scared her.
- Ⓓ Libby climbs the rock wall faster.

2 In the passage, Maizell's character is revealed mostly

- Ⓐ by her thoughts
- Ⓑ by what others say about her
- Ⓒ by her physical characteristics
- Ⓓ by her conversations with her friends

3 Why does Maizell climb the Dinosaur Wall?

- Ⓐ to win a contest
- Ⓑ to enjoy the festival
- Ⓒ to encourage her friend
- Ⓓ to prove she has courage

4 Read this sentence from the passage.

"I got a right to speak my mind," she said, like I was a mosquito she could squash with her words.

The author most likely uses the underlined phrase in order to

- Ⓐ compare Libby to an insect
- Ⓑ show how small Maizell feels
- Ⓒ compare how angry the girls are
- Ⓓ show that Libby finds Maizell annoying

5 Read this sentence from the passage.

Hattie says I'm cheap, but Momma calls me frugal.

What does the word frugal mean?

- Ⓐ compassionate
- Ⓑ lively
- Ⓒ powerful
- Ⓓ thrifty

6 The author most likely intended this passage to show

- Ⓐ the effects of teasing
- Ⓑ the challenge of rock climbing
- Ⓒ the difficulty of entering a competition
- Ⓓ the reason people are fearful of heights

7 If *timidus* means afraid, what does intimidate mean?

- Ⓐ to distress
- Ⓑ to confuse
- Ⓒ to cause illness
- Ⓓ to cause closeness

8 Read these sentences from the passage.

Hattie has her mouth open so wide that I can see her back teeth. That's because she's shouting, "Maizell, you look like a bat! Libby's getting ahead of you! Come on, straighten up and climb right!" Easy for her to say, safe and upright on the ground.

What does Hattie mean by the underlined phrase?

- Ⓐ Maizell is hanging upside down.
- Ⓑ Maizell is dressed in black for the festival.
- Ⓒ Maizell is running so fast it looks like she is flying.
- Ⓓ Maizell's arms are flapping up and down as if she is flying.

9 The author's style is characterized by comparisons like these found in "Raggedy Pants and the Dinosaur Wall":

dizzier than a seagull on a weathervane during a nor'easter
like the creature from the swamp
taller than the hotels on our oceanfront

Which of these sentences best explains the effect of these comparisons on the passage?

- Ⓐ They create vivid images.
- Ⓑ They create natural images.
- Ⓒ They establish a frightening mood.
- Ⓓ They reveal astonishing exaggerations.

10 Why does Maizell decide to help Libby?

- Ⓐ Maizell feels sorry for her.
- Ⓑ Libby rips her new yellow shorts.
- Ⓒ Libby admits she has been unkind.
- Ⓓ Maizell wants to get back at Libby.



Directions

Read the poem “The Pigeon and the Peacock.” Then answer Numbers 11 through 19.

The Pigeon and the Peacock

by Jill Esbaum

At the end of our driveway,
where streams of soapy water
have pooled against the curb,
struts a pigeon who’s in love with himself.

He circles a puddle, 5
cocking his head
first one way,
then another,
admiring his iridescent¹ feathers
and trying to determine his most flattering profile. 10

At the top of our driveway,
where my brother waxes his car and
buffs its windows to mirrored perfection,
struts a peacock who’s in love with himself. . . .

My brother, 15
He circles the car,
cocking his head
first one way,
then another,
practicing his lover-boy smile 20
and striking a muscle pose in the windshield.

A car splashes by,
dousing the pompous pigeon,
and I tiptoe around the garage
with a well-aimed hose. 25

¹**iridescent:** shining

“The Pigeon and the Peacock” by Jill Esbaum, copyright © 2003 by Jill Esbaum; first published in *Cicada* Magazine. Used by permission of the author.

11 Which pair of words best describes the brother in the poem?

- Ⓐ busy, sensible
- Ⓑ friendly, strong
- Ⓒ humorous, lively
- Ⓓ conceited, distracted

12 How is the brother in the poem similar to the pigeon?

- Ⓐ He acts like the pigeon.
- Ⓑ He sounds like the pigeon.
- Ⓒ They both get wet in the poem.
- Ⓓ They both use a puddle for a mirror.

13 Read the dictionary entry below.

douse *v.* 1. To put out; extinguish.
2. To dip into water or other liquid.
3. To soak with water or other liquid.
4. To haul down quickly, especially a sail.

Now read these lines from the poem.

A car splashes by,
dousing the pompous pigeon,

Which meaning of douse is used in these lines?

- Ⓐ definition 1
- Ⓑ definition 2
- Ⓒ definition 3
- Ⓓ definition 4



14 How does the pigeon in the poem get wet?

- Ⓐ it jumps off the curb
- Ⓑ it falls into the puddle
- Ⓒ a passing car sprays it with water
- Ⓓ the speaker splashes it with the hose

15 The last two stanzas of the poem compare the brother to a

- Ⓐ sly fox
- Ⓑ worker bee
- Ⓒ vain peacock
- Ⓓ playful puppy

16 Read these lines from the poem.

A car splashes by,
dousing the pompous pigeon,
and I tiptoe around the garage
with a well-aimed hose.

What will the speaker most likely do next?

- Ⓐ wash the car
- Ⓑ help the pigeon
- Ⓒ frighten the pigeon
- Ⓓ surprise the brother

17 Both “Raggedy Pants and the Dinosaur Wall” and “The Pigeon and the Peacock” show the human need for

- Ⓐ acceptance
- Ⓑ beauty
- Ⓒ happiness
- Ⓓ pleasure

18 What is the main idea shared by “Raggedy Pants and the Dinosaur Wall” and “The Pigeon and the Peacock”?

- Ⓐ Enemies can become friends through understanding.
- Ⓑ People should not brag about their accomplishments.
- Ⓒ Brothers and sisters can remain friends even if they act differently.
- Ⓓ People who think too much of themselves may eventually be humbled.

19

Explain one important way in which the characters in “Raggedy Pants and the Dinosaur Wall” and “The Pigeon and the Peacock” are similar. Be sure to thoroughly support your answer using details and examples from the passage and the poem. Write your answer on the lines below.

STOP 

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Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
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